

1 --16.(as amended) A hand held pointing device for a computer system, the pointing device comprising:
2 a housing having a bottom surface that moves against a desktop surface;
3 the housing also having a top surface shaped to receive the human hand;
4 the housing also having a skirt connecting a perimeter of the bottom surface with the
5 top surface;

6 the housing also having a first axis extending generally in the direction from where the
7 heel of the hand rests on the top surface to where the middle finger rests on the top surface, and
8 a second axis perpendicular to the first, both axes parallel to the bottom surface;

9 an aperture in the bottom surface;

10 a source of non-coherent illumination mounted within the interior of the housing,
11 proximate the aperture, that illuminates, from a single location and with an angle of incidence in
12 the range of about five to twenty degrees, a portion of the desktop surface opposite the aperture
13 and having surface height irregularities forming a micro texture with feature sizes in the range of
14 about five to five hundred microns, the illumination producing highlights upon surface height
15 irregularities that extend out of the desktop surface and that intercept the illumination and shadows
16 upon surface height irregularities that extend into the desktop surface and whose illumination is
17 blocked by adjacent surface height irregularities that are illuminated, the highlights and shadows
18 forming a pattern that varies as a function of rotations and translations of the aperture relative to
19 the desktop;

20 an optical motion detection circuit mounted within the interior of the housing and
21 optically coupled to the highlights and shadows from the surface height irregularities of the
22 illuminated portion of the desktop surface, the optical motion detection circuit producing motion
23 signals indicative of motion in the directions along the first and second axes and relative to the
24 surface height irregularities of the illuminated portion of the desktop surface; and

25 wherein the optical motion detection circuit comprises [a plurality]an array of photo
26 detectors each having an output, a memory containing a reference frame of digitized photo
27 detector output values that is stored in a reference array of memory locations corresponding to
28 the array of photo detectors and a sample frame of digitized photo detector output values obtained
29 subsequent to the reference frame and that is stored in a sample array of memory locations
corresponding to the array of photo detectors, and further wherein a plurality of comparison

31 frames, each being a shifted version of one of the reference frame or the sample frame, is
32 correlated with the other of the reference frame or the sample frame to ascertain motion in the
33 directions along the first and second axes, the correlation being upon the values in all memory
34 array locations that correspond to overlap between the comparison frame and the other of the
35 reference frame or the sample frame.--;

1 --21.(as amended) A hand held pointing device for a computer system, the pointing device comprising:
2 a housing having a bottom surface that moves against a work surface;
3 the housing also having a top surface shaped to receive the human hand;
4 the housing also having a skirt connecting a perimeter of the bottom surface with the
5 top surface;
6 the housing also having a first axis extending generally in the direction from where the
7 heel of the hand rests on the top surface to where the middle finger rests on the top surface, and
8 a second axis perpendicular to the first, both axes parallel to the bottom surface;
9 an aperture in the bottom surface;
10 a source of illumination mounted within the interior of the housing, proximate the
11 aperture, that illuminates a portion of the work surface opposite the aperture and having surface
12 height irregularities forming a micro texture with feature sizes in the range of about five to five
13 hundred microns, the illumination producing a pattern of highlights upon surface height
14 irregularities that extend out of the desktop surface and that intercept the illumination and of
15 shadows upon surface height irregularities that extend into the desktop surface and whose
16 illumination is blocked by adjacent surface height irregularities that are illuminated;
17 an optical motion detection circuit mounted within the interior of the housing and
18 optically coupled to the pattern of highlights and shadows from the surface height irregularities
19 of the illuminated portion of the work surface, the optical motion detection circuit producing
20 motion signals indicative of motion in the directions along the first and second axes and relative
21 to the surface height irregularities of the illuminated portion of the work surface;
22 wherein the optical motion detection circuit comprises [a plurality]an array of photo
23 detectors each having an output, a memory containing a reference frame of digitized photo
detector output values that is stored in a reference array of memory locations corresponding to

25 the array of photo detectors and a sample frame of digitized photo detector output values obtained
subsequent to the reference frame and that is stored in a sample array of memory locations
27 corresponding to the array of photo detectors, and further wherein a plurality of comparison
frames, each being a shifted version of one of the reference frame or the sample frame, is
29 correlated with the other of the reference frame or the sample frame to ascertain motion in the
directions along the first and second axes, the correlation being upon the values in all memory
31 array locations that correspond to overlap between the comparison frame and the other of the
reference frame or the sample frame; and

33 a switch disposed on the skirt in a location underneath the right thumb or the left ring
finger of a hand grasping the pointing device, that is coupled to the optical motion detection circuit
35 and that inhibits the output of the motion signals to the computer system when the hand activates
the switch by squeezing against the skirt in a plane parallel to the bottom surface in order to lift
37 the pointing device away from the desktop surface.--; and

1 --22.(as amended) A hand held pointing device for a computer system, the pointing device comprising:
a housing having a bottom surface that moves against a work surface;
3 the housing also having a top surface shaped to receive the human hand;
the housing also having a skirt connecting a perimeter of the bottom surface with the
5 top surface;
the housing also having a first axis extending generally in the direction from where the
7 heel of the hand rests on the top surface to where the middle finger rests on the top surface, and
a second axis perpendicular to the first, both axes parallel to the bottom surface;
9 an aperture in the bottom surface;
a source of illumination mounted within the interior of the housing, proximate the
11 aperture, that illuminates a portion of the work surface opposite the aperture and having surface
height irregularities forming a micro texture with feature sizes in the range of about five to five
13 hundred microns, the illumination producing a pattern of highlights upon surface height
irregularities that extend out of the desktop surface and that intercept the illumination and of
15 shadows upon surface height irregularities that extend into the desktop surface and whose
illumination is blocked by adjacent surface height irregularities that are illuminated;

17 an optical motion detection circuit mounted within the interior of the housing and
18 optically coupled to the pattern of highlights and shadows from the surface height irregularities
19 of the illuminated portion of the work surface, the optical motion detection circuit producing
20 motion signals indicative of motion in the directions along the first and second axes and relative
21 to the surface height irregularities of the illuminated portion of the work surface;

22 wherein the optical motion detection circuit comprises [a plurality]an array of photo
23 detectors each having an output, a memory containing a reference frame of digitized photo
24 detector output values that is stored in a reference array of memory locations corresponding to
25 the array of photo detectors and a sample frame of digitized photo detector output values obtained
26 subsequent to the reference frame and that is stored in a sample array of memory locations
27 corresponding to the array of photo detectors, and further wherein a plurality of comparison
28 frames, each being a shifted version of one of the reference frame or the sample frame, is
29 correlated with the other of the reference frame or the sample frame to ascertain motion in the
30 directions along the first and second axes, the correlation being upon the values in all memory
31 array locations that correspond to overlap between the comparison frame and the other of the
32 reference frame or the sample frame; and

33 a switch disposed on the skirt in a location underneath the left thumb or the right ring
34 finger of a hand grasping the pointing device, that is coupled to the optical motion detection circuit
35 and that inhibits the output of the motion signals to the computer system when the hand activates
36 the switch by squeezing against the skirt in a plane parallel to the bottom surface in order to lift
37 the pointing device away from the desktop surface.--.
